

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: TECH, NATO, SENV, ENGR, PO

SUBJ: CCMS GEOTHERMAL ENERGY PILOT (GEP) STUDY: PROPOSED

SMALL POWER PLANT CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 219324 (NOTAL) B) LISBON 4098

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT CONFERENCE (REF A) WITH DR. SANTOS MOTA OF PORTUGUESE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH BOARD. SANTOS MOTA NOT IN POSITION TO STATE WHAT GOP'S REACTION WILL BE, BUT DID ASSURE THAT MATTER WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES SOONEST. EVEN SO, HE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT US-PROPOSED RESPONSE DATE OF OCTOBER 17 REALISTIC IN PORTUGUESE CONTEXT.

2. BOTH SANTOS MOTA AND DR. ALFREDO SIMOES MENDES READILY RECALLED OCTOBER 1973 CALIFORNIA MEETING. SANTOS MOTA'S PERSONAL INTERPRETATION OF GOP POLICY ON ENERGY MATTERS
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RUNS IN FOLLOWING TERMS:

A) THERE IS NO CLEARLY DEFINED GOP POLICY ON CCMS PROJECTS, SINCE POST-APRIL 25 GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED WITH MORE PRESSING MATTERS AND THEREFORE HAVE NOT DEVELOPED ANY COMPREHENSIVE POLICY IN THIS AREA.

B) AS A GENERAL RULE, GOP IS INTERESTED IN REDUCING EXPENSES INVOLVED IN SENDING DELEGATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

C) INSOFAR AS ENERGY IS CONCERNED, GOP'S PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN MEASURES INVOLVING ENERGY CONSERVATION. GOP DOES NOT BELIEVE IT HAS THE HUMAN RESOURCES TO ATTEMPT DEVELOPING EXPERTISE ACROSS-THE-BOARD. IT WOULD PREFER TO SPEND MONEY INSTEAD ON BUYING APPLICABLE NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT MAY BE DEVELOPED ELSEWHERE.

D) GOP WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT WHERE REAL POSSIBILITY EXISTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL EXPERTISE. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY EXPLOITATION IS SUCH AN AREA.

3. WHILE SANTOS MOTA NECESSARILY UNABLE TO MAKE COMMITMENT OF ANY SORT ON CONFERENCE HOSTING PROPOSAL, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT IDEA OF HOSTING CONFERENCE WILL BE APPEALING TO GOP SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES. EMBASSY WILL RAISE MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND POTENTIALLY INTERESTED POLITICAL FIGURES.

4. SANTOS MOTA MADE NO REFERENCE TO OBVIOUS TIE-IN OF PROJECT TO AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH STUDIES ON EXPLOITATION OF THE AZORES' GEOTHERMAL ENERGY RESOURCES WAS ONE OF ITEMS MENTIONED BY FORMIN SOARES AS ON GOP'S SHOPPING LIST (REF B). EMBASSY WILL NOT, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, ASSOCIATE THE TWO MATTERS WHEN DISCUSSING CONFERENCE PROPOSAL WITH OTHER PORTUGUESE FIGURES.

5. IN DISCUSSING PROJECT WITH PORTUGUESE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR EMBOFFS TO HAVE SOME GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT COST TO GOP OF HOSTING CONFERENCE WOULD RUN. FOR EXAMPLE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE THE HOST WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNDING. BASED ON DEPARTMENT'S EXPERIENCE AND ANTICIPATED SIZE OF GATHERING, WHAT DOES DEPARTMENT ESTIMATE BALLPARK FIGURE WOULD BE?
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